

Food Safety
- Accomps

Food Safety Initiative Activities

Category	1. A New Early-Warning System for Foodborne Disease Surveillance	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity	Sub Activity					
1. A New Early-Warning System for Foodborne Disease Surveillance					\$1.5	Two sites will become operational in 1998 in FoodNet, with three more underway. Epidemiologists and other scientific personnel have been added to several of the sites. State sites are also being networked into the developing database on DNA fingerprinting of pathogenic microbials. Results of Vermont Salmonella outbreak investigations are being studied and other monitoring of microorganisms' antimicrobial resistance, including sampling results of large meat plants under FSIS/HACCP.
Description: In cooperation with State and local health departments, the Federal Government is proposing to improve a system for promptly and accurately detecting and reporting foodborne illnesses and outbreaks so public health agencies can rapidly institute appropriately and correctly focused measures to control the spread of foodborne disease. This system will also collect critical data to recognize trends and target prevention strategies, including systems based on HACCP principles, and to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of prevention strategies already in place.						
1.a Conduct surveillance of Human Pathogens in Food-Animal Populations and Enhance Oversight of Animal Foodstuffs, Feeds and manures for the Effect of Drugs and Other Therapies						
1.a.1 USDA, CDC, FDA and EPA will convene a working group to discuss how to conduct surveillance of human pathogens in food animals and their manures, and should target one pathogen on which to begin surveillance in FY99.		Tollefson & Falci (FDA); Buntain (FSIS); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		USDA formed a task force on manure management. A manure document is being prepared.

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Activity						
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	1.a.2 FDA should increase the monitoring of animal-feed processing to determine the nature and extent of pathogen contamination and the effect of control strategies on pathogen reduction in animals.	Tollefson (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		work is ongoing.
1.b Create a National Electronic Network for Fingerprint Comparison						
	1.b.1 CDC will provide resources and technical assistance to state health departments for DNA fingerprinting of E.coli O157:H7 and S.typhimurium, and begin to establish a centralized national electronic database of DNA fingerprint patterns.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/97		(1) Process was initiated in January 1996. FDA/CFSAN site will be connected to CDC net to share isolate results by early 1998. The FSIS fingerprinting network site in Athens, GA became operational in February. (2) CDC has contracted the set-up of sites in the states of Washington, Minnesota, Texas and Massachusetts. Debugging of the program is underway. (3) Plans are underway to expand the CDC Net to five additional sites.
	1.b.2 The national electronic database of DNA fingerprint patterns of E.coli O157:H7 will continue to be expanded.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		See Activity Above.
	1.b.3 In collaboration with participating state health department laboratories, FDA and FSIS CDC will develop standardized methods for DNA fingerprinting of Salmonella serotypes Typhimurium and Enteritidis and will transfer the techniques to health depts.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		Group met in Seattle, WA, 3/30-4/3/98, on standardizing methods and exploring extension of fingerprinting for S. Typhimurium and evaluating faster turnaround on fingerprinting for O157:H7 and S. Enteritidis. Selected a method for S. Typhimurium subtype Newport.
	1.b.4 CDC, ASTPHLD, and CSTE will develop guidelines for maximizing the utility of DNA fingerprinting at state health departments in foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak investigations.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		FSIS is monitoring progress in merging/meshing its database with theirs over Pulsenet.

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Activity						
Sub Activity						
	1.b.5 CDC, FDA, and FSIS will set up centralized national electronic databases of DNA fingerprint patterns of S. Typhimurium and Enteritidis.	Falci (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		See Activity 1.b.1 under Create a National Electronic Network for Fingerprint Comparison.
	1.b.6 CDC should continue to develop standardized DNA fingerprinting methods for other foodborne disease-causing bacteria as appropriate and should transfer the methods to health depts. and federal labs.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		In process --will occur as result of the CDC Net expansion.
	1.b.7 CDC should begin implementing automated foodborne disease outbreak dimension algorithms based on the DNA fingerprint patterns submitted by state health department laboratories.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		
1.c Enhance and Expand Foodborne Disease Active Surveillance						
	1.c.1 Two new active surveillance sites in New York and Maryland, will begin FoodNet activities	Falci (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	1/25/97	1/15/98	(\$1.5)	October 1, 1997 started the FoodNet sites in Rochester, NY and Baltimore, Maryland. Exchange of data at these sites is operational. The two new sites funded, in part, by a transfer from USDA/FSIS will expand the portion of the U.S. population under surveillance.
	1.c.2 CDC, FDA, FSIS and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) will add at least one site to FoodNet.	Falci (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		Site selection has not been made, but is expected by fall of 1998, with participation in 1999.
	1.c.3 CDC will enhance personnel resources at all sites to improve surveillance, analysis of data, and timely and appropriate release of information.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		3 to 4 part-time epidemiology interviewers have been hired by the states that have FoodNet Sites.
	1.c.4 CDC and the FoodNet sites will develop and conduct case-control studies of Salmonella,	Falci (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		(1)Salmonella, and E.coli O157:H7 case control studies are completed and will be discussed and

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Activity						
Sub Activity						
E.coli O157:H7, and Campylobacter and Cryptosporidium infections to guide control efforts.						reported on at the March 8, 1998 Infectious Disease Conference in Atlanta, GA. E. coli study completed, discussed, and reported. (2) Campylobacter case control study has begun and is expected to be completed during 1999. (3) A letter has been sent to CDC requesting better surveillance of reported Cryptosporidium cases at the FoodNet sites.
1.d Enhance Early Detection of Foodborne Disease Nationwide						
1.d. 1	Council for State and territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and CDC, in conjunction with FDA and FSIS, will develop a protocol for evaluating epidemiological outbreak data.	Falci (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/97		A protocol has been drafted and was discussed at the June 1997 CSTE Meeting. FSIS and CSTE met on a USDA/FDA protocol on March 4. Discussions continue on the draft and changes are still being incorporated.
1.d. 2	CSTE and CDC, in conjunction with FDA and FSIS, will develop criteria for local and state health officials to provide information on outbreaks to federal authorities for review and necessary action.	Falci (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	1/25/97	5/1/98		Criteria have been drafted and were discussed at the June 1997 CSTE meeting. The draft criteria is being discussed and updated.
1.d. 3	FoodNet sites will gather epidemiologic data on cases of HUS.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/97		Active Surveillance for HUS was implemented in 5 FoodNet sites. Efforts are underway to expand this effort to the newly added New York and Maryland FoodNet Sites. Pediatric nephrologist were contacted monthly. 23 HUS cases have been reported at the 5 sites. A full report was presented at the March 8, 1998, Infectious Disease Conference.
1.d. 4	CSTE and CDC in conjunction with FDA and FSIS, will conduct an inventory of state and local health departments to conduct surveillance, investigation, control and prevention of foodborne illness.	Greenblat (?); Falci (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		Preliminary draft has been started. The drafts will be further discussed at CSTE meeting in June.

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Activity						
Sub Activity						
	1.d. 5 CDC will help states remedy identified deficiencies.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		
	1.d. 6 CDC and CSTE will develop an electronic module for collecting and transmitting data to USDA and FDA on outbreaks and response to multi-state outbreaks of foodborne illness.	Ostroff (CDC); Falci (FDA); Burkhead (CSTE); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		Discussions have been held at CDC. Draft paper and funds for the system have not been put in place.
	1.d. 7 CDC will begin a case-control study of hepatitis-A to determine the proportion of cases due to contamination of food so that optimal control strategies could be determined.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)				Will not be done.
	1.d. 8 Epidemic assistance, in the form of EIS Officers, for outbreaks of foodborne diseases will be expanded when states request direct CDC participation in investigations.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		In process.
	1.d. 9 CDC and, where appropriate, FDA and FSIS, will collaborate with state health departments to improve diagnostics, outbreak detection, and electronic communications.	CDC; Majkowski (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		In process.
	1.d.10 Vibrio surveillance will be strengthened by CDC, FDA and states by increasing personnel, epidemiologic and laboratory resources devoted to the Gulf Coast Vibrio surveillance program.	Falci (FDA)	10/1/97	9/30/98		(1) Retail market survey for the quantitative occurrence of vibrio vulnificus started. (2) Samples of molluscan shellfish are being analyzed in state laboratories. Vibrio paraheamolyticus in molluscan shellfish is being planned for 1999.
	1.d.11 Surveillance and investigative systems should continue to improve the ability of state and local health departments to promptly and accurately identify foods that are the source of foodborne illness.	Falci (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		In process.

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Activity						
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1.e Increase National Surveillance for Antimicrobial Resistance of Foodborne Pathogens						
1.e.1 CDC, FDA and FSIS will conduct surveillance of antimicrobially resistant Salmonella and E.coli O157:H7 isolates		Tollefson (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/00		Process began January 1996 and is ongoing.
1.e.2 CDC, FDA, and FSIS will initiate surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in isolates of Campylobacter from humans and animals, including poultry.		Tollefson (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		Campylobacter testing from human isolates began January 1997; Campylobacter testing from poultry isolates began January 1998.
1.e.3 FDA and CDC will conduct surveillance and epidemiologic studies to monitor and reduce the incidence of foodborne disease associated with emerging and drug resistant pathogens.		Tollefson (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		An outbreak investigation of Salmonella Typhimurium DT104 problem on a Vermont dairy farm has been initiated in collaboration with USDA/ARS, USDA/APHIS, and the Vermont State Health Department. Samples were collected January 7 -9, 1998 as a followup to the original Vermont investigation. These will be susceptibility tested to determine the status of DT104 colonization and shedding in cattle and other animal species on the farm.
1.e.4 CDC, FDA, and FSIS should continue monitoring, comparing and testing the antimicrobial resistance of E.coli O157:H7, Salmonella, and Campylobacter strains in humans and animals.		Tollefson (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		(1) System is on-going; a preliminary report of the 1997 results will be available in March 1998. A large scientific symposium on the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring Program and related epidemiology research is planned for August 31 - September 3 in Athens, GA. (2) USDA has arranged to have all Salmonella isolates collected as part of the implementation of HACCP for meat and poultry in the large USDA-inspected slaughter plants sent to ARS for susceptibility testing and inclusion in the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring Program. This will greatly increase the number of

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Activity						
Sub Activity						
						non-clinical isolates and aid in the interpretation of the data. (3) In July 1998, USDA has plans to begin targeted <i>Campylobacter</i> testing for poultry in the large USDA-inspected slaughter plants sent to ARS for susceptibility testing and inclusion in the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring Program. This will greatly increase the number of non-clinical isolates and aid in the interpretation of the data.
	1.e.5 FDA and CDC should conduct physician and veterinary drug prescribing surveys, including patients and animal producers, to asses the effect of antimicrobial drug use on resistance patterns and prevalence to guide regulatory policy and education.	Tollefson (FDA)	10/1/97	9/30/00		CDC is in the process of conducting pediatric prescribing practices. FDA has purchased a database of antimicrobial use in beef cattle, dairy cattle, and swine, and will receive and analyze these data in 1998. FDA is also in the planning stages for veterinary prescribing practices and producer antimicrobial use surveys with USDA/APHIS for feedlot cattle; the actual survey will take place in late 1999. This survey ill combine antimicrobial use information with on-farm sampling to determine the resistance pattern among the enteric pathogens.
	1.e.6 FDA should assist the WHO in the development of a veterinary database within the WHONET system.	Tollefson (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		FDA participated in a meeting at WHO/FAO in Berlin, October 13-17, 1997, on the medical impact of use of antimicrobials in food animals that included a workshop on mechanisms for international monitoring. A report of this meeting including recommendations has been completed. During 1998 and 1999, FDA will continue to investigate and support WHO efforts to develop an international veterinary monitoring program on antimicrobial resistance.
	1.f Modernize Public Health Laboratories					
	1.f.1 CDC will collaborate with Food Net sites to determine serotypes of E.coli other than	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/97		Protocol (including forms) for collecting and testing stool and serum have been developed. The protocol

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Activity						
Sub Activity						
	O157:H7 that cause HUS in children.					will be finalized following the completion of E.coli O157:H7 HUS.
	1.f.2 The Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors (ASTPHLD) and CDC will improve diagnostic assays and provide additional resources to improve the capacity of state laboratories to detect foodborne pathogens.	ASTPHLD; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		Discussions were held in Atlanta on 12/15/97.
	1.f.3 CDC will provide sufficient funds to states to support the production of serotyping reagents for Salmonella, which are critical for outbreak identification.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		USDA will be monitoring progress to harmonize methodology and technology for human and animal serotypes.
	1.f.4 CDC will develop DNA amplification-based tests for foodborne pathogenic bacteria that are difficult to detect by culture.	CDC; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		
	1.f.5 CDC will provide resources and technical assistance to states to improve their capacity in diagnosing those pathogens which are difficult to detect by culture.	Falci (FDA; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/98		SEE FIRST ITEM (1.b.1) UNDER CREATE A NATIONAL ELECTRONIC NETWORK FOR FINGERPRINT COMPARISON.

Category	2. Interstate Outbreak Containment and Response Coordination	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity	Sub Activity					
2. Interstate Outbreak Containment and Response Coordination					\$0.0	Foodborne Outbreak Response Coordination Group (FORCG) has been established. An MOU was made to establish FORCG.
Description:	Improve coordination among Federal, State, and local agencies through enhanced communication systems coordination and a new management system that will improve the exchange of critical information and clarify or consolidate the Federal agencies' role in foodborne illness outbreak containment.					
2.a Enhance State and Local Infrastructure for Foodborne Outbreak Detection, Evaluation, and Response Coordination						
2.a.1 FORCG, with assistance from AFDO, ASTHLD, CSTE, and NASDA will begin a nationwide audit to catalogue the existing state and local food safety program infrastructure.		Oliver (FDA) and Mondschieen, Joan (FSIS)	1/27/97	9/30/97		FDA contract with NASDA signed. NASDA will catalog all federal and state food statutes in the country.
2.a.2 FORCG, in consultation with the appropriate outside organizations, will establish working groups with appropriate federal, state, and local officials to develop recommended procedures for outbreak-response coordination at the state and local level.		Oliver (FDA) and Mondschein (FSIS)	8/7/97	9/30/97		Ongoing
2.a.3 CDC, EPA, FDA, and FSIS will assist states and local governments in developing the infrastructure necessary to ensure proper detection, evaluation, and coordinated response to foodborne outbreaks. FORCG to be discussed at National Meetings (AFDO).		Oliver (FDA) and Mondschein (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		Preliminary discussions held as part of the 7/28/97 FORCG meeting. In process of writing SOPS.
2.b Improve Outbreak Containment Through Better Federal-State-Local Coordination of the Evaluation of and Response to Foodborne Illness						

Category	2. Interstate Outbreak Containment and Response Coordination	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
	2.b.1 CDC, EPA, FDA, and FSIS will establish, through a formal MOU, an intergovernmental group, the Foodborne Outbreak Response Coordinating Group (FORCG), to improve the approach to interstate outbreaks of foodborne illness.	Oliver (FDA) and Mondschein (FSIS)	1/25/97	7/28/97		End of March, the group developed and cleared an MOU to establish FORCG. Development of the MOU is underway. An informal FORCG group has been established. Representatives: CDC-Ostroff, Broome; USDA-Wachsmuth, Mondschein; FDA -Pendergast, Oliver, Morrison; EPA-Schaub; AFDO-Richardson; CSTE-Osterholm; ASTPHLD-(Bradford);NASDA-(USDA to supply contact). First meeting held on 7/28/97. A meeting was held March 31,1998.
	2.b.2 FORCG will review and evaluate outbreak response. Based on these reviews, FORCG will assess the infrastructure for outbreak response, make recommendations, and work with impacted groups to implement beneficial changes.	Oliver (FDA) and Mondschein (FSIS)	1/27/97	9/30/97		(1) FORCG Subcommittee has been established. Members: FDA-Carson, Ralston; USDA-Majkowski; EPA-Schaub, McKinnon; AFDO-Richardson; CDC-Shapiro. (2) FORCG Subgroup review of the Hepatitis A Outbreak has been completed on 11/25/97. It was determined that overall the outbreak response went very well. Several areas of improvement were identified. Three documents are under development by FDA, USDA, and CDC. These documents will be consolidated into one final product.
	2.b.3 Establish as a formal institutional position, with appropriate backup designees, an outbreak coordinator for each department or agency.	O'Hara (HHS), Woteki (USDA), Goldman (EPA)	1/27/97	9/30/97		Formal Institutional Position: HHS-Assistant Secretary for Health; USDA-Under Secretary for Food Safety; EPA-Assistant Administrator for Water with backup designees positions of Deputy Secretary for Health, Administrator, FSIS, and Assistant Administrator for pesticides.
	2.b.4 Develop standard procedures for the rapid exchange of data and information associated with foodborne illness outbreaks between involved agencies and for dissemination to the public.	Oliver (FDA); Mondschein (FSIS)	1/27/97	9/30/97		In process.

Category 3. Risk Assessment		Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
3. Risk Assessment					\$4.7	
Description: Improve the capability to estimate risks associated with foodborne and waterborne contaminants, especially microbial pathogens, in order to make faster and more accurate regulatory decisions, more effectively target program resources, and facilitate the development and evaluation of surveillance plans and risk reduction strategies, such as pathogen reduction practices implemented from the farm to the consumer.						The Risk Assessment Consortium was established in November 1997 as part of the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN), which is a collaborative activity of FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) and Center For Veterinary Medicine (CVM). The Consortium has had several meetings, with two teams (Microbial Risk Assessment Team [MRAT] and the Advisory Group) formed within CFSAN. Efforts are underway to identify data gaps and modeling deficiencies to help set research priorities and, at the same time, eliminate duplicate activities among consortium agencies. An example in application is recently completed (April 1998) risk assessments of shell eggs and egg products and related ANPR drafts being reviewed prior to incorporation into inspection and compliance functions.
3.a Establish a Risk Assessment Consortium						
3.a.1 Establish as part of the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, a risk assessment consortium. An interagency policy group will be established.		Long (FDA); Etzel (FSIS); Ahl (ORACBA)	1/27/97	9/30/98		(1) Risk Assessment Consortium Established. The first meeting of the Risk Assessment consortium was held 11/12-14/97. Two additional meetings were held 1/23/98 and 2/25/98. Two teams with CFSAN, the Microbial Risk Assessment Team (MRAT) and the

Category	3. Risk Assessment	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
						Advisory Group have been formed. MRAT has meet, assignments have been made and work is underway. The Advisory Group composed of CFSAN Senior managers will contribute to a number of related activities, such as guiding the development of the "white paper", determining needs for outside expertise, developing Risk Assessment Training, and mentoring the members of MRAT. (2) Policy group was established.
3.a.2	The Consortium will begin the process of establishing a clearinghouse that will collect and catalogue available methodology.	Long (FDA); Etzel (FSIS); Ahl (ORACBA)	1/17/97	9/30/97		Existing clearinghouses are being studies/evaluated to help determine budgeting and potential applications and formats. The "Bad Bug Book" will be posted on the clearinghouse section of the food safety webpage (FoodSafety.gov).
3.a.3	The Consortium will work with its member agencies to catalogue their microbial risk assessment research advances and identify data sets that would provide the scientific data needed to develop new models.	Long (FDA); Etzel (FSIS); Ahl (ORACBA)	1/25/97	9/30/97		An example of recent cooperation is a risk assessment on shell eggs; the ANPR has been drafted and is in clearance (See subactivity 5.a.4).
3.a.4	A strategic plan will be developed for research into dose-response calculations, chronic sequelae, biomarkers, and adapting surveillance data.	Long (FDA); Etzel (FSIS); Ahl (ORACBA)	10/1/97	9/30/98		
3.a.5	A series of public meetings will be held to develop a strategy to address long-term research needs for the analysis of farm-to-table scenarios, including potential pathogen introduction at each level, food consumption data, and computer modeling.	Long (FDA); Etzel (FSIS); Ahl (ORACBA)	10/1/97	9/30/98		A public meeting to discuss dose-response issues is tentatively planned for March 1998. The Dose-Response Workgroup met on Dec. 1, 1997 to identify the key dose-response issues. The Dose-response workgroup met again in January to begin preparations for the public meeting.
3.a.6	Begin a comprehensive review of existing data and federal information collection programs to determine the extent to which they may fill	Long (FDA); Etzel (FSIS); Ahl (ORACBA)	10/1/97	9/30/00		

Category	3. Risk Assessment	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
existing data gaps, and suggest additional data needs to better support risk assessments.						
3 a.7 The Consortium will continue to collectively identify critical research needs, propose effective research on analytical approaches and methods, and reach consensus on the priority of these needs.		Long (FDA); Etzel (FSIS); Ahl (ORACBA)	10/1/97	9/30/00		Identification of research needs is ongoing. A draft of the RFAs and RFPs is expected to be distributed to the Consortium members during mid-January 1998 with two tentative meetings to discuss RFAs and RFPs scheduled for 1/23/98 and 2/25/98. RFPs are scheduled to be finalized and issued by mid-July 1998.
3.b Develop and Validate Exposure Assessment Models Based on Probabilistic Methodology					(\$4.6)	
3.b.1 Working with FDA, EPA, and USDA, the consortium will identify priority research programs in two areas needing augmentation: exposure assessment methods and techniques for acquisition and analysis of experimental data for model development.		Long (FDA); Etzel (FSIS); Ahl (ORACBA)	10/1/97	9/30/98		
3.b.2 Future initiatives would be fluid to adjust to results of short-term research, emerging food safety needs, and changes in the direction of research programs within individual agencies.		Long (FDA); Etzel (FSIS); Ahl (ORACBA)	10/1/97	9/30/00		
3.c Develop and Validate Dose-Response-Assessment Models for Use in Risk Assessment					(\$0.1)	
3.c.1 Working with FDA, EPA, and USDA, the consortium will identify priority research programs in dose-response-assessment methods and models that need to be augmented.		Long (FDA); Etzel (FSIS); Ahl (ORACBA)	10/1/97	9/30/98		

Category 3. Risk Assessment**Activity****Sub Activity****Lead/Contact****Start End
Date Date****FY 1998
USDA
Funding
(millions)****Status/Notes**

3.c.2 Risk assessment research priorities for development and validation of dose-response-assessment models will be collectively established by the interagency consortium.

Long (FDA); Etzel
(FSIS); Ahl (ORACBA)

10/1/97 9/30/00

Category 4. Research**Lead/Contact****Start End
Date Date****FY 1998****Status/Notes****Activity****USDA****Sub Activity****Funding
(millions)****4. Research****\$56.6**

Description: Provide Federal, State, and local agencies (and indirectly the agriculture and food industries, the retail food industry and consumer) practical and effective science-based practices and technologies that improve the safety of food. Research is also needed to support HACCP implementation to verify that critical control points in HACCP are working, especially where there are data gaps hampering HACCP application and risk assessment.

USDA research on detection methods for Cyclospora has been underway since July 1997, but culturing problems with the Cyclospora have slowed the progress as alternative culture methods are explored. There has been more success with E. coli O157:H7 and Salmonella, with work on non-O157:H7 E. coli continuing. Less, but significant, progress has been made for detecting Cryptosporidia. Research on pathogens in farm and aquaculture animals and feeds has been coordinated and duplication eliminated. Basic and applied methods (steam pasteurization, competitive exclusion, irradiation, etc.) research has been conducted by USDA for meat, poultry, egg, seafood, and produce.

4.a Improved Detection Methods**(\$12.4)**

4.a.1 EPA, CDC, ARS, CSREES, and FDA, in conjunction with states and academia, will conduct research to develop detection methods and control measures for Cyclospora.

Cebula (FDA);
Robens (USDA);
Wachsmuth (FSIS)

1/25/97 9/30/97

(1) ARS continues to work with FDA and CDC, and the University of Arizona to develop detection methods, however problems in obtaining reliable cultures of Cyclospora have greatly slowed the work. (2) A protocol has been developed for Concentration and Preparation of Oocysts from Produce for the PCR and microscopy. A public meeting to review the science was held on 7/23/97. NACMCF/Fresh Produce Working Group meetings held 8/12-14/97.

Category 4. Research**Activity****Sub Activity****Lead/Contact****Start Date** **End Date****FY 1998**
USDA**Funding**
(millions)**Status/Notes**

4.a.2 ARS, FDA, and EPA will enhance ongoing research test methods for Campylobacter, Salmonella, Toxoplasma, E.coli O157:H7 & other Shiga-like toxin-producing E. coli, Cryptosporidium, hepatitis A & Norwalk viruses, mycotoxins, marine toxins.

Cebula (FDA);
Robens (USDA);
Wachsmuth (FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/98

Tissue culture assays were conducted using monolayers of cultured intestinal epithelial cells. Culturing using conventional monolayer technology yielded limited success. A new cell culture system, the rotary cell culture system (bioreactor) was chosen to propagate *C.cayetanensis*. Preliminary data indicates that both monolayer and bioreactor tissue culture systems can be used for oocyst viability studies. Data also suggest that *C.cayetanensis* may be culturable in the bioreactor. Preliminary feeding studies for the development of an animal model for the mechanisms utilized by these parasites have been completed. Antibodies to be used in detection methods have been raised in rabbits to both whole and homogenized oocysts.

(1) ARS has worked closely with the FSIS to develop methods for Campylobacter culture and identification in the regulatory environment. Antibodies have been identified which appear to be specific to *C. jejuni* and *E. Coli*, and confirmation is ongoing. (2) ARS has developed a rapid test for detecting *E.coli* O157:H7 for use by producers and industry. Serologic tests to detect animals which have experienced infection but which may not be actively shedding *E.coli* or *Salmonella* have been developed. (3) ARS has developed a single procedure Multiplex PCR assay for detection of *E.coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella*. Development of methods for detecting non-O157:H7 *E.coli* is ongoing. (4) ARS is augmenting their ongoing Cryptosporidia methodology research to include molecular probes. This research has already developed PCR and immunohistochemical methods to detect Cryptosporidia. (5) ARS has improved methods to sample and identify Campylobacter. The methods will be evaluated during May and June and applied in poultry studies in July.

Category	4. Research	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
	4.a.3 FDA will expand its ongoing research on the development of methods for detecting foodborne pathogens in animal feeds.	Alderson; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		Conducted interagency coordination of effort and identified specific areas for targeted investigation. Development of resources for intramural programs is underway.
	4.a.4 FDA, ARS, CSREES, and EPA should undertake research to develop test methods for <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> in foods.	Cebula (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		
	4.b Understanding Resistance to Traditional Preservation Technologies				(\$0.1)	
	4.b.1 ARS/CSREES and FDA should undertake research into physiological, genetic, and other factors that cause foodborne disease causing microorganisms to develop resistance to preservation techniques.	Cebula (FDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		
	4.c Understanding Antibiotic Drug Resistance				(\$1.0)	
	4.c.1 FDA and ARS will conduct research to identify and characterize the factors that lead to the development of multiple drug (antibiotic) resistance in foodborne pathogens in farm and aquaculture animals.	Alderson; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		Conducted interagency coordination to ensure non-duplication of effort and identify specific areas for targeted investigation. In the process of developing resources for intramural programs.
	4.c.2 ARS and FDA will investigate techniques for manipulating the microbial ecology of the intestinal tract of agricultural and aquaculture animals to prevent the development of antibiotic resistance or select for nonresistance.	Alderson; Wachsmuth (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		
	4.d Prevention Techniques: Pathogen Avoidance, Reduction, and Elimination				(\$33.5)	

Category 4. Research**Activity****Sub Activity****Lead/Contact****Start Date** **End Date****FY 1998**
USDA**Funding****(millions)****Status/Notes**

4.d.1 Expand research into the microbial ecology of foodborne pathogens and how initial colonization in plants and animals can be prevented.

Alderson and Cebula (FDA); Robens (USDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/98

(1) CVM continues to advise companies on the approval of foodborne competitive exclusion products. (2) ARS is developing infection models of O157:H7 in neonatal and weaned calves. (3) ARS is initiating an epidemiological study of Salmonella and Campylobacter to help describe how broilers contract these pathogens. (4) Studies into the on-farm ecology of E.coli O157:H7 and Salmonella in beef cattle are ongoing. These are focused on quantifying transmission from animal to animal and from reservoirs of infection. (5) ARS is developing techniques to augment natural immunity to help prevent initial infection with intestinal pathogens in newly hatched poultry and in weaning pigs.

4.d.2 Expand research on new methods to reduce or eliminate pathogenic microorganisms and mycotoxins from agricultural and aquacultural animals before slaughter or harvest, including the use of probiotics.

Cebula (FDA); Robens (USDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/98

(1) Initial ARS studies are underway to ascertain the host response genes responsible for genetic resistance to Salmonella in calves. (2) ARS is developing vaccines to prevent pathogens in food producing animals, and has demonstrated 2 factors, intamin and Shiga toxin, are necessary for colonizing E.coli in weaned calves. (3) Studies to describe the mechanisms of how pathogens attach to poultry carcasses and selected fruits and vegetables are being initiated in order to provide the knowledge for preventing biofilm formation. (4) ARS has demonstrated that viable Cryptosporidia can be transmitted into oysters, clams and other aquaculture animals. The source of the infection has not been proven, but is theorized to be C. parvum from cattle or deer feces.

4.d.3 Develop new methods to reduce or eliminate pathogenic microorganisms and mycotoxins from plants before harvest.

Cebula (FDA); Robens (USDA); Wachsmuth (FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/98

(1) ARS is developing the use of non-aflatoxin producing Aspergillus flavus strain to competitively exclude the toxin producing fungi and thus proven

Category 4. Research**Activity****Sub Activity****Lead/Contact****Start Date** **End Date****FY 1998
USDA
Funding
(millions)****Status/Notes**

4.d.4 Develop new disinfection methods and systems for improved sanitation of production processing and marketing equipment and facilities.

Cebula (FDA);
Robens (USDA);
Wachsmuth (FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/98

afatoxin in cottonseed. (2) Genetic markers of resistance to *Aspergillus* colonization and aflatoxin formation in corn have been identified.

ARS research is identifying factors to prevent the formation of biofilms (bacterial films that are difficult to remove from surfaces) in poultry processing facilities; developing spray scalding to reduce cross contamination in poultry processing plants; and developing new methods to prevent spillage of fecal matter during initial processing and evisceration.

4.d.5 Expand research on new methods of decontamination of meat, poultry, seafood, fresh produce, and eggs.

Cebula (FDA);
Robens (USDA);
Wachsmuth (FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/98

(1) ARS demonstrated that a hot water and quick chill (thermoflux) significantly reduced *Salmonella* incidence in meat from specific areas of pork. (2) ARS is developing steam pasteurization for poultry to kill pathogens on poultry skin. (3) ARS has demonstrated that irradiation will kill *Cyclospora* on certain fruits and vegetables.

4.d.6 Initiate research to develop new technologies for eliminating animal feeds as a source of foodborne pathogens.

Alderson; Wachsmuth
(FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/98

Conducted interagency coordination to ensure non-duplication of effort and identify specific areas for targeted investigation. Development of resources for intramural programs is underway.

4.d.7 ARS, CSREES, and FDA should undertake research to develop new decontamination methods for contaminants such as *Vibrio* and Norwalk virus on or in marine-harvested and aquaculture-reared seafood and for *Cyclospora* and hepatitis A on produce.

Cebula (FDA);
Wachsmuth (FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/00

4.d.8 ARS, CSREES, and FDA should work with industry and academia to develop new techniques that provide alternatives to traditional thermal processing from eliminating pathogens.

Cebula (FDA);
Robens (USDA);
Wachsmuth (FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/00

ARS has worked closely with industry to develop bacterial cultures to competitively inhibit *Salmonella* in broiler chicks, and substances to enhance the immune response in chicks and neonatal swine. ARS received FDA approval for competitive

Category 4. Research**Activity****Sub Activity****Lead/Contact****Start Date** **End Date****FY 1998
USDA
Funding
(millions)****Status/Notes**

exclusion product (PREEMPT) to reduce Salmonella population on chicks. May be effective against other pathogens.

4.d.9 FDA, FSIS, and EPA should work with industry and academia to develop criteria for evaluating the efficiency and safety of new intervention technologies.

Cebula (FDA);
Robens (USDA);
Wachsmuth (FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/00

In conjunction with a pork slaughter plant ARS will develop approaches to determine where in the process Critical Control Points should be located.

4.e Food Handling, Distribution, and Storage**(\$9.6)**

4.e.1 ARS, CSREES, and FDA should undertake research to identify factors that contribute to the spread of microorganisms during transportation of live animals and fresh produce and develop techniques for eliminating cross-contamination.

Cebula and Alderson
(FDA); Robens
(USDA); Wachsmuth
(FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/00

(1) ARS has carried out preliminary studies with broilers demonstrating that Salmonella and Campylobacter are increased during transportation to slaughter and that consumption of litter during fasting is a contributing factor. Similar transportation studies with swine are being planned. (2) ARS has demonstrated that fecal shedding of E.coli O157:H7 is increased in cattle that are alternatively fasted and fed. (3) The Salmonella serotypes in trailers used for hauling swine were found to be identical to those found in preslaughter holding pens, confirming common belief that animals are carrying Salmonella into the slaughter plant.

4.e.2 FDA, ARS, and CSREES should work with industry and academia to develop and assess the effectiveness of in-or on-package sensors of storage conditions to alert consumers of products not stored safely.

Cebula (FDA);
Wachsmuth (FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/00

4.f Charge an Interagency Committee Convened by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to Coordinate Federal Research Priorities and Planning

Category 4. Research**Activity****Sub Activity****Lead/Contact****Start Date** **End Date****FY 1998
USDA
Funding
(millions)****Status/Notes**

4.f.1 Review food safety responsibilities and research programs of the various agencies with a view to recommending direction of research funds and programs.

Cebula (FDA);
Robens (USDA);
Wachsmuth (FSIS);
Kennedy (USDA)

1/25/97 9/30/97

Interagency review of research related to the Produce Initiative began in September 1997. A research plan for FY 99 will be available in early 1998 for fruits and vegetable related research.

Category	5. Improving Inspections and Compliance	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity	Sub Activity					
5. Improving Inspections and Compliance					\$0.6	Risk assessments of shell eggs and egg products are nearing completion and related ANPR drafts are being reviewed. HACCP training has been conducted, with FSIS completing inspector training for large plants inspection staff in January. Evaluation of cross-utilization of FSIS inspectors for non-meat production areas is underway and an MOU is being developed to document the procedures. FSIS held several public meetings on the impact of HACCP on inspection and the application of HACCP to other components of the farm-to-table continuum. Federal-State-local meetings of public health officials have been held, training has been planned, and other cooperative ventures--including legislative review of interstate shipment of State-inspected meat and poultry--have been conducted or are underway in developing an integrated regulatory approach to food safety. A review of foreign food safety programs and requirements is nearing completion. Meetings have been held, and guidance shared, with industry--including transportation--to foster increased HACCP-based compliance.
<i>Description:</i>	Develop and implement more efficient and effective procedures for monitoring the safety of the Nation's food supply at all levels, and promote the adoption of HACCP in the food industry at all governmental levels.					

Category	5. Improving Inspections and Compliance	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
5.a Enhance Development of HACCP Procedures						
5.a. 1	Based on the best science available, FDA will propose appropriate regulatory and non-regulatory options, including HACCP, for the manufacture of fruit and vegetable juice products.	Tolen (FDA)	5/1/97	9/30/97		Juice HACCP Proposal drafted and being reviewed by HHS and it is anticipated the regulation will be issued in March 1998. Juice Warning Labels proposed drafted and being reviewed by General Counsel. Proposal is expected to issue in March 1998.
5.a. 2	Based on the best science available, FSIS will propose appropriate regulatory and non-regulatory options, including HACCP, for egg products.	Wachsmuth (FSIS); Ahl (ORACBA-USDA)	5/1/97	9/30/98		FSIS conducting risk assessment that is expected to be completed in early 1998. FSIS will issue an ANPR (sent to OGC 1/28/98) to solicit public comment.
5.a. 3	FDA and USDA will immediately identify preventive measures to address public health problems, such as those recently associated with fruits and vegetables, e.g., hepatitis A virus associated with frozen strawberries.		5/1/97	9/30/97		FDA, at the request of AMS (Processed Products Branch), is reviewing the PPB's instructions and procedures for employee hygiene, product sampling, product grading, equipment sanitation, and field grading facilities. FDA has visited 5 PPB field offices and observed PPB procedures of grading and production sample collection. (2) Good Agricultural Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices Broadscope Guidance has been drafted. Final Guidance is scheduled to publish in March 1998. (3) Six domestic and one international grassroots meetings have been held on Broadscope Guidance.
5.a. 4	FSIS and FDA will jointly publish an ANPR in which they will evaluate the public health, food technology, and regulatory issues involved in reducing the risk of human illness from Salmonella Enteritidis in shell eggs.	Troxell (FDA); Stolfa (FSIS)	5/1/97	9/30/98		(1) Salmonella in egg products guidance has been developed. Risk assessment has been completed. Responses to OMB comments are being prepared. Responses will be completed and package resubmitted to OMB by the end of March. (2) Draft labeling proposal is under review within CFSAN. Target date for clearing CFSAN is the end of March. (3) Shell eggs refrigeration at retail proposal is

Category	5. Improving Inspections and Compliance	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
						expected to go to OMB by the end of March.
						FSIS is currently completing a risk assessment on shell eggs; the ANPR has been drafted and is in clearance.
5.a. 5 FDA will evaluate whether and how to propose to require the use of HACCP in other appropriate food commodities and animal feeds.			5/1/97	9/30/97		On hold until the regulatory effectiveness of the seafood HACCP regulation is reviewed and after proposing HACCP for fresh fruits and vegetable juices.
5.a. 6 FDA will provide additional training in seafood HACCP and FSIS will complete HACCP Training of inspectors in large meat and poultry plants.		Mina (FSIS)	5/1/97	9/30/98		Completed development of a training course for regulators that could be provided to many training sites simultaneously by satellite, with facilitation at each site. The course was offered and attended by about 800 Federal and State Inspectors and other personnel located in many sites nationwide in March 1997. The course was subsequently held in Boston, New York, Annapolis, Seattle, and Detroit for regional exposure. An additional 103 Federal and State regulators were trained during the first quarter of FY 1998. (2) FSIS completed training of inspectors for 1st HACCP implementation phase. Large plants completed in January 1998. (3) Seafood Alliance, in cooperation with FDA, Provided Seafood HACCP training to an additional 1352 students bringing the total to 6861.
5.a. 7 FSIS and FDA will evaluate expanding existing cooperative agreements so that plants producing meat and nonmeat foods are inspected by FSIS inspectors trained in FDA inspection standards.		Mayl (FDA) and Derfler (FSIS)	1/15/98	9/30/98		Joint meeting held 2/19/98 to discuss MOU development. Agreed to form smaller working groups to begin process. Next meeting to be held in March.
5.a. 8 FSIS will conduct a series of public meetings to discuss the design and testing of new inspection concepts consistent with HACCP		Derfler (FSIS)	5/1/97	9/30/98		The first public meeting was held on June 24, 1997 in Washington, DC. Another meeting is planned for late 1998.

Category	5. Improving Inspections and Compliance	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
Principles to achieve food safety and other consumer protection objectives.						
5.a. 9 FSIS will conduct a series of public meetings to discuss how HACCP requirements will be implemented in slaughter plants and how the roles and responsibilities of inspection personnel will change with that implementation.		Derfler (FSIS)	1/20/97	1/30/98		Meeting held December 16, 1997 in Washington, DC. Additional meetings held January 14 (Des Moines, IA), January 16 (Denver, CO) and January 21 (Memphis, TN).
5.a.10 FDA and USDA will cooperate in evaluating the feasibility of HACCP for commodities such as fresh fruits and vegetables.		Kelly (USDA)		9/30/98		Redirected to Guidance by president's Directive (Produce and Imported Food Safety Initiative).
5.a.11 FDA will implement seafood HACCP by hiring approximately 80 investigators to conduct inspections to ensure the proper implementation of seafood HACCP.				9/30/98		A vacancy announcement for 19 microbiologist and 61 CSO/CSIs for seafood HACCP should issue by the end of February 1998.
5.a.12 A performance-based organization (PBO) will be created as the organizational structure for the voluntary fee-for-service seafood program currently located at NMFS.		Spiller, P.	5/1/97	9/30/98		PBO legislation has been drafted. Commerce has given its approval for the PBO. Draft legislation is being reviewed by HHS and OMB. Discussions continue between the Department of Commerce and FDA/Es Budget Office to resolve pending budget issues.
5.a.13 FDA should further the use of HACCP principles, as appropriate, for other foods, including animal feeds, and use risk assessment techniques where possible.		Tolen (FDA)	10/1/97	9/30/00		
5.b Enhance the Safety of Foods in Retail Food Establishments Particularly at State and Local Levels						
5.b.1 FDA and FSIS will hold a series of meetings with state and local regulators in five		Guzewich (FDA) and Stafko (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/98		(1) Six grassroots meetings have been held. (2) Draft Model State Retail Food Program Standards

Category	5. Improving Inspections and Compliance	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
regions to establish retail program standards in accordance with the 1997 model state code (the Food Code) to enhance national uniformity.						are being developed and will be presented at the Conference For Food Protection on 4/2/98.
5.b.2 FSIS and FDA will provide HACCP training to state and local inspectors that will augment the training program for federal inspection personnel, more fully covering the farm-to-table process.		Tolen (FDA) and Mina (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98	(\$0.6)	Plan being developed for training State and local public health officials inspecting retail establishments in HACCP principles.
5.b.3 The Food Code should be adopted by all 50 States.		Guzewich (FDA) and Stafko (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		USDA and FDA are developing a strategy to encourage State adoption of the Code. Currently, eight states have adopted the Code.
5.c Enhance Federal-State Inspection Partnerships						
5.c.1 FSIS will hold two public meetings on the issue of interstate distribution of state-inspected meat and poultry products.		Stafko (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/98		Two meetings have been held. June 16-17, 1997, in Sioux Falls, SD and July 22, 1997, in Washington, DC. Concept paper reviewed by the USDA Meat and Poultry Advisory Committee and new legislation is being drafted.
5.c.2 FDA will develop additional federal-state partnerships to improve coordination between the federal food safety agencies and state regulators for the training of state inspectors in food safety standards applicable at all levels.		Tolen (FDA)	1/25/97	9/30/98		A model Federal-State partnership agreement for Seafood HACCP-based inspection has been developed. The Model is being used by the FDA District Offices as a basis for negotiations with States for partnerships.
5.c.3 FDA will expand the number of federal-state partnerships to include more extensive HACCP training of state inspectors, the seafood industry, and the retail food industry.		Tolen (FDA)	10/1/97	9/30/98		
5.c.4 FSIS will initiate HACCP training for state inspectors with respect to meat and poultry		Smith (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		FSIS will conduct train-the-trainer session for State employees.

Category	5. Improving Inspections and Compliance	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
products.						
5.c.5 FDA and FSIS should work more closely with industry, professional and trade associations, and academia to ensure effective implementation of HACCP principles, particularly at the production, processing, and retail levels.		Tolen (FDA) and Smith (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		The First Edition of the "Fish and Fishery Products and Hazards Control Guide" published in September 1996. An addendum to the First Edition is being developed, among other things, it will respond to comments received on the first edition.
5.c.6 FDA should create a data system to compile inspection data from federal and state inspections, as well as provide the states with equipment and technology for the rapid sharing of inspection results.		Tolen (FDA)	10/1/97	9/30/00		A low cost, low tech data system ("Cardiff") by which both Federal and State inspection programs could transmit the results of inspections into a common national database has been identified. Acquisition of the equipment and software has been initiated.
5.d Enhance Coverage of Imported Foods with Specific Attention to Foods Regulated by FDA						
5.d.1 FDA will work to increase the number of mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) with trading partners.		Tolen (FDA)	10/1/97	9/30/98		Draft guidance containing the criteria FDA intends to use to decide whether another country's regulatory system for food safety is equivalent to the US System published on June 4, 1997. CFSAN is currently analyzing the information received from countries about their regulatory systems in preparation for making equivalence determinations.
5.d.2 FDA will initiate a federal-state communication system through which states can inform federal agencies of problems found with imported products in their jurisdictions.			10/1/97	9/30/98		
5.d.3 FDA will initiate a system for certifying and accrediting private laboratories, including use of a quality-assurance procedure, that will be authorized to test samples of food products for contaminants.		Tolen (FDA)	10/1/97	9/30/00		

Category	5. Improving Inspections and Compliance	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
	5.d.4 When FDA and FSIS become aware of possible public health problems associated with a regulated food product, the agencies will provide technical assistance to the foreign country importing the product.	Tolen (FDA); Wachsmuth and Prucha (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		FSIS requires foreign inspection programs to submit detailed descriptions of corrective actions they will take or have taken to address public health problems associated with meat or poultry products processed for export to the United States. Appropriate technical advice is provided when requested.
	5.d.5 FSIS should continue to verify foreign government-inspection progress for conformance with the new HACCP and Pathogen Reduction Requirements.	Wachsmuth and Prucha (FSIS)	9/30/97	9/30/00		FSIS has contacted all 37 countries eligible to export meat or poultry to the U.S. to determine whether they have implemented requirements equal to those contained in the PR/HACCP rule regarding SSOP's and E. coli. Most have implemented both requirements, but discussions continue on the equivalency of alternative approaches used in some countries. Eligible countries are also being asked about the number of large plants in their programs that would be affected by the mandatory U.S. implementation in January.
	5.d.6 The laboratory-certification process should be extended to include assessing the utility of existing accrediting bodies with FDA providing performance standards and oversight to the process.	Tolen (FDA)	10/1/97	9/30/00		
	5.d.7 FDA should expand the Federal-state communication system states use to inform the federal agencies of problems found with imported products in their jurisdictions.	Tolen (FDA); Majkowski (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		
	5.d.8 FDA should evaluate the feasibility of combining the communication system with the Federal-state inspection data system, making the data and information more widely accessible.	Tolen (FDA); Majkowski (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		
	5.d.9 FDA should review and evaluate ways to	Tolen (FDA)	10/1/97	9/30/00		

Category 5. Improving Inspections and Compliance

Lead/Contact

Start Date End Date

**FY 1998
USDA
Funding
(millions)**

Status/Notes

Activity

Sub Activity

increase coverage of imports through such means as increased personnel, increased partnerships, or innovative information-sharing with the states.

5.e Enhance Safety of Foods During Transportation

5.e.1 FDA and FSIS will evaluate the comments and information received in response to the ANPR as a basis for determining what, if any, regulatory approach to take, including development of guidelines.

Troxell (FDA) and Stafko (FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/98

Agencies have been meeting with industry which is developing voluntary guidelines for consideration.

5.e.2 FDA and FSIS, through partnerships with states, should provide training and training materials to the transportation industry on safe food transportation.

Tolen (FDA) and Stafko (FSIS)

10/1/97 9/30/00

Joint meeting held in January. Industry has put together guidance and declined partnership offer.

5.f Good Agricultural Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices

5.f.1 Reissuance of the Prepared Cut Vegetable Salad Manufacturers Survey. The Survey is intended to establish baseline data on the industry to assist in preparation of GMP guidance documents.

Gardine (FDA)

10/2/97 9/30/98

Survey reissued on 1/12/98.

5.f.2 HHS and USDA, in partnership with the agricultural community, will issue within 1 year guidance on good agricultural practices and good manufacturing practices for fruits and vegetables.

Gardine (FDA) and Kelly (FSIS)

10/2/97 10/2/98

(1) A Public Meeting on GAPs was held 11/17/97. Grassroots Meetings in 6 regions were held 12/1-12/12--Over 400 individuals in attendance. Over 100 individuals in attendance at the International Meeting held 12/8/97--32 foreign governments were represented, as well as trade and consumer organizations and Congressional Staff. (2) Draft GAP document prepared for minimally processed produce

Category	5. Improving Inspections and Compliance	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
as science based non-biding guidance to industry to reduce, to the extent possible, microbiological risks in fresh and minimally processed produce. Over 30 written comments on the draft have been received. Comment review is planned to begin January 12th. (3) A Task Group, consisting of representatives of involved federal agencies (including FDA, USDA, EPA, OSHA) and various State Departments of Agriculture or Health, has been established to evaluate comments received from the Grassroots and International Meetings and to revise the draft GAP document. Publication of the revised draft guidance is planned for late March 1998 with a 45 day comment period.						
5.f.3 Status report and complete schedule for the GAPs and GMPs, assistance to foreign countries, prevention of the importation of unsafe produce.		Gardine (FDA) and Kelly (USDA)	10/2/97	1/2/98		Status report is under review.
5.f.4 Accelerate food safety research needed for GAPs, GMPs, assisting foreign countries and preventing importation of unsafe food products.		Cebula (FDA) and Robens (USDA)	10/2/97	9/30/99		

Category	6. Education	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
6. Education					\$2.8	Food Safety Education Partnership established by MOU in May 1997 and includes industry, consumer groups, FDA, CDC, USDA, and the Dept. of Education. Food Safety Campaign launched on 10/24/97. Community action and supermarket kits ordered for distribution to begin in March. Food Safety Information Kits (Education Packets) sent by FDA to thousands of Food Safety Educators. FDA/CFSAN has met with the Educational Foundation to plan 1998 National Food Safety Month. Expansion of National Food safety Month is underway in cooperation with the Education Foundation of the National Restaurant Association to plan 1998 activities and the Department of Education for America Goes Back to School. The Research Plan submitted on October 31, 1997. The 1997 survey to identify trends in the quality of food handling practices, safe food selection, and food safety knowledge and concern results will be available in April 1998. Various technologies have been applied in sharing information, including videoconferences and the Internet with E-mail. For example: (1) a single, agency-neutral address "FoodSafety.gov" was established with an e-mail address of foodsafety.gov and (2) launched EdNet on 10/27/97.
Description:	Develop new and innovative strategies to improve farm-to-table food-handling practices by assessing the current effectiveness of the Food Safety Initiative and identifying needs, priorities, and future food safety directions through a dialogue with stakeholders (e.g., Federal and State agencies, consumers, academia, and the food industry).					

Category	6. Education	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
6.a Improve Consumer, Retail, and Food Service Education						(\$2.5)
6.a.1 Establish a Consumer Food Safety Education Partnership.		Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/98		Food Safety Education Partnership Established. A memorandum of understanding was signed in May 1997, formalizing a food safety education partnership that includes industry, consumer groups, FDA, CDC, USDA, and the Dept. of Education.
6.a.2 Launch a nationwide food safety education campaign for the general public.		Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	5/12/97	5/31/98		Food Safety Campaign launched on 10/24/97. Hold videoconference for State/local and Extension Health Educators. Community action and supermarket kits ordered for distribution to begin in March.
6.a.3 Promote September as National Food Safety Month.		Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	5/12/97	9/30/98		Food Safety Information Kits (Education Packets) sent by FDA to thousands of Food Safety Educators. FDA/CFSAN has met with the Educational Foundation to plan 1998 National Food Safety Month. Expansion National Food safety Month is underway in cooperation with the Education Foundation of the National Restaurant Association to plan 1998 activities and the Department of Education for America Goes Back to School.
6.a.4 Form alliances with industry, consumer, trade, state and local food protection agencies, and academic organizations to share food safety education materials and to conduct joint food safety activities.		Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/97		(1) The Food Safety Education Conference was held on June 12-13, 1997. Over 500 persons attended including Hillary Clinton. 88% of the attendees rated the conference as very good. (2) Retail Food Service Education Alliance Formed. Meeting held in July and October 1997. Subcommittees have been formed to implement the actions. (3) The Consumer Education Alliance-EdNet (ednet@foodsafety.gov) launched on October 27, 1997.

Category	6. Education	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
6.a.5 FDA, CDC, FSIS and CSREES will promote and incorporate food safety education into school programs.		Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/98		Food safety standards developed and being reviewed by States for inclusion in Family Consumer Science curriculum. Final release by States expected in May. Study is underway to help determine in which subjects and at what grades food safety education would be best received.
6.a.6 FDA, FSIS and CSREES will form an alliance, joining expertise of federal, state, and local agencies, industry, and professional and trade associations to promote and implement the 1997 food Code and develop multilingual communication techniques.		Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/97		Completed a Spanish Translation of the brochure "If you eat raw oysters you should know..." The National Hispanic Healthy Nation Symposium was held September 10-13, in California. FDA serves on the Committee and food safety was included as part of the forum.
6.a.7 Convene the National Food Safety Education Council, an Independent scientific review board to periodically review safety education messages.		Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/97		Several internal planning meetings were held with FSIS. Multiple options are being explored including a possible subcommittee to the Micro Advisory Committee or as group of government communicators and scientists from several federal agencies.
6.b Conduct Research to identify Barriers to Safe Food Handling, Upon Which Educational Programs Will Be Centered						
6.b.1 HHS and USDA will develop national safe-food-handling guidelines like the Dietary Guidelines and review them periodically.		Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/97		Broad guidelines have been developed by the Partnership for Food Safety Education and will be assessed and refined in FY 98 and FY99. More detailed guidance for each of the four major guidelines is planned for FY99.
6.b.2 Conduct additional research necessary to determine the best way to communicate key safety food principles in order to achieve behavior change.		Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		The Research Plan submitted on October 31, 1997. The 1997 survey to identify trends in the quality of food handling practices, safe food selection, and food safety knowledge and concern results will be available in April 1998.

Category	6. Education	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
	6.b.3 Conduct research necessary to develop a visual communication tool that conveys food safety principles, as the food guide pyramid does for nutrition principles.	Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		A visual communication tool has been developed by the Partnership for Food Safety. This tool will be assessed and refined in FY99.
	6.b.4 Through partnerships and alliances, implement an education campaign to use the new education tools especially targeted to school programs and specific at-risk audiences.	Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		
	6.c Expand Existing Information Systems					
	6.c.1 Expand existing information systems while laying the groundwork for a National Clearinghouse for Food Safety Education.	Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/97		National Clearinghouse for Food Safety Education is being developed. A FoodSafe Listserv is established. A single, agency-neutral address "FoodSafety.gov" established with an e-mail address of foodsafety.gov.
	6.c.2 Explore innovative methods for sharing food safety information including consolidation of government Internet sites to reach larger audiences and provide easier access to information through a single site.	Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	1/25/97	9/30/97		(1) A single, agency-neutral address "FoodSafety.gov" established with an e-mail address of foodsafety.gov. (2) Launched EdNet on 10/27/97.
	6.c.3 Establish a National Clearinghouse for Food Safety Education.	Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		First steps of researching and cataloguing existing activities and developing options is underway.
	6.c.4 Consider use of food labels and other point-of-sale materials to convey food safety information.	Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		Point of sale materials are being used in the Partnership for Food Safety Education Campaign. The food safety research activities will assess the effectiveness of point of sale and labeling materials.
	6.c.5 Develop and initiate a targeted multilingual program to change food workers' unsafe food	Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		First steps of cataloging existing activities and identifying options are underway.

Category	6. Education	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
preparation behaviors.						
6.c.6 Evaluate education program and continue to support those programs initiated in FY97 and FY98.		Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		
6.d Improve Veterinarian and Producer Education					(\$0.3)	
6.d.1 Use existing mechanisms to strengthen and implement programs to educate producers, veterinarians, and state and local regulators about proper drug use and incorporation of HACCP principles into industry QA program to reduce foodborne pathogens.		CVM	10/1/97	9/30/00		
6.d.2 Encourage evaluation and improvement of veterinary and producer education at veterinary and agricultural colleges to address foodborne pathogens in animals and their manures.		CVM	10/1/97	9/30/00		
6.d.3 Develop and disseminate guidelines and educational materials through existing networks to food producers and the veterinary medical community.		CVM	10/1/97	9/30/00		
6.e Improve Health-Professional Education						
6.e.1 In cooperation with FDA, FSIS and CSREES, CDC should train public health professionals on foodborne disease and clinical microbiology and foodborne illnesses with non-traditional symptoms by using multimedia, distance-learning techniques and NLTN.		Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		

Category	6. Education	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
6.f Improve Industry Education in the Transportation Area						
6.f.1 Form an alliance among government agencies and the private sector to develop educational materials and train food transportation vehicle owners and operators and food processing establishments on hazards associated with the transportation of food.		Durham (FDA) and Conley (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/00		

Category	7. Strategic Planning	Lead/Contact	Start Date	End Date	FY 1998 USDA Funding (millions)	Status/Notes
Activity						
Sub Activity						
7. Strategic Planning					\$0.0	White House Meeting held on June 11, 1997. White Paper will be ready for agencies' review by end of March.
Description:		Develop an inclusive, public process to identify priorities, outline strategies for change, and ways to measure progress, which will be incorporated into a strategic plan for improving the food-safety system.				
7.a Initiate a Longer-Term Strategic Planning Process to Develop a Strategic Plan for Improving the Food-Safety System						
7.a.1 Initiate a longer-term strategic planning process giving interested parties an opportunity to comment on the possible approaches for structuring dialogue before implementation.		Hulabak (FDA); Mondschein (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		White House Meeting held on June 11, 1997. White Paper will be ready for agencies' review by end of March.
7.b Prepare a 3 to 5 Year Strategic Plan						
7.b.1 Prepare a 3 to 5 year Strategic Plan and incorporate the relevant parts of the plan into the GPRA strategic plan commensurate with the budget.		Hulabak (FDA); Mondschein (FSIS)	10/1/97	9/30/98		
7.c Measure Progress to Evaluate the Effectiveness of the Plan in Reducing the Annual Incidence of Foodborne Illness						
7.c.1 Review progress of Strategic Plans implementation to determine the plan's effect on the annual incidence of foodborne illness.		Hulabak (FDA); Mondschein (FSIS)	10/1/98	9/30/99		

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Shelby
Smith (NH)
Stevens
Thomas
Thompson
Thurmond
Warner

*Food
Safety
Amendment*

NOT VOTING---1

Glenn

(Rollcall Vote No. 207 Leg.)

July 16, 1998, 5:03 PM

BILL NO.: S.2159

AMENDMENT NO.: S.AMDT.NO. 3175

TITLE: Harkin Amdt No. 3175

REQUIRED FOR MAJORITY: 1/2

RESULT: Amendment Agreed to

YEAS---65

Abraham
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Bryan
Bumpers
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Campbell
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Reid
Robb
Rockefeller
Roth
Sarbanes
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Specter
Stevens
Torricelli
Warner
Wellstone
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NAYS---34

Allard
Ashcroft
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Helms
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Murkowski
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Smith (NH)
Smith (OR)
Thomas
Thompson
Thurmond

NOT VOTING---1

Glenn

(Rollcall Vote No. 206 Leg.)

July 16, 1998, 11:41 AM

BILL NO.: S.2159

AMENDMENT NO.: S.AMDT.NO. 3172

TITLE: Grassley Amdt. No. 3172

REQUIRED FOR MAJORITY: 1/2

RESULT: Amendment Agreed to

YEAS---71

Abraham
Akaka
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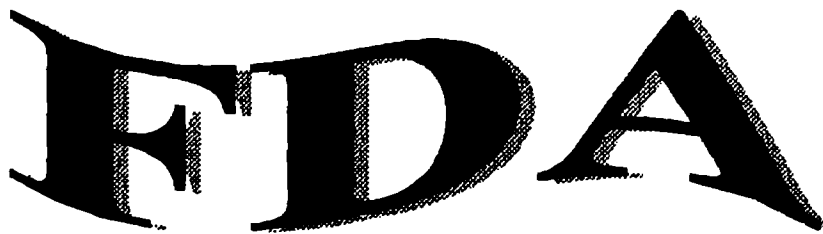
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Rockefeller
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Warner
Wyden

NAYS---28

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*Food
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To : Tom Freedman

From: Bill Hubbard

FAX #: 202-456-7431

Of Pages Not Including Cover: 2

Comments:

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Los Angeles Times

METRO

HELP

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Starving Food Safety

Americans now enjoying their summer picnics may suffer a glimmer of anxiety over recent outbreaks of food-borne illness: 6,500 people became sick in Illinois last month after eating commercial potato salad, and E. coli bacterial contamination occurred in fruit juice and lettuce that originated in California. Today, the U.S. Senate can take a big step to combat food contamination by restoring all or most of the \$101-million initiative the Clinton administration has proposed to improve **food safety**. The money would go to hire new safety inspectors, upgrade technologies and bring coherence to disjointed oversight.

So far, the Senate has allocated only a piddling \$2.6 million for the initiative at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and nothing at all at the Food and Drug Administration. The shame of this penny-pinching is that it comes when lawmakers are spending like drunken sailors elsewhere, for instance in the pork-laden transportation bill.

The need for better **food safety** oversight could not be stronger. The Centers for Disease Control estimated that this year 9,000 Americans will die and millions will fall seriously ill because of tainted foods, numbers that have been growing. CDC officials aren't sure why those statistics are rising, though they suspect part of the reason may be improved detection and the increase in imported foods bearing bacteria and other pathogens to which Americans have little resistance. Food imports have doubled in the last seven years and are expected to increase by one-third in the next three years.

The administration's **Food Safety Initiative** would get at this problem first by hiring new inspectors. Less than 2% of imported food is inspected now because the FDA's budget has not grown along with imports. Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), the chairman of the Senate committee that decided not to fund the initiative at the FDA, suggested that some of the FDA's duties be delegated to states and local governments, but the increasing movement of food across state lines and national borders argues for just the opposite: a coordinated national strategy.

National planning, for instance, is the only way to successfully deploy new technologies like DNA fingerprinting, which within hours allows federal inspectors to trace the genetic signature of, say, a dangerous bacterium on apples marketed in the West back to the farm where the fruit was harvested in Maine. Funding the initiative would enable federal agencies to continue efforts to install such technology in sites around the country and train workers to quickly identify and track food

Starving Food Safety

<http://www.latimes.com/sbin/iawrap...a&NS-doc-offset=0&NS-adv-search=0&>

pathogens. And Congress needs to consider pending bills to give the FDA and the USDA the power to recall food and to create a single **food safety** agency to consolidate scattered oversight.

Food safety is an unassailable cause. There are some things that only government can do, and guaranteeing the wholesomeness of our food supply is one of them.

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**PREVIOUS MATCH****SEARCH RESULTS****SEARCH PANEL****NEXT MATCH**

Food
Safe
Amendment

July 14, 1998

REPORT TO THE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

Subject: Status of Foodborne Illness for 1998

On behalf of our agencies and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this memorandum is intended to provide you with a brief report on the foodborne illness outbreaks identified thus far in 1998.

It has been less than two years since the President directed the Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services and the Environmental Protection Agency to develop an initiative to reduce the millions of illnesses and thousands of deaths caused by food contaminated with bacteria, viruses, and parasites. With initial funding by Congress, we have already made major progress in efforts to better understand the causes of, and methods to prevent, these illnesses; to increase consumer and industry understanding of such preventive techniques; to implement a state-of-the-art inspection system for meat, poultry, and seafood, and to improve our ability to identify and track major outbreaks of foodborne illness.

Combining the most modern techniques of DNA "fingerprinting" with proven methods of epidemiologic investigation, we have improved our ability to detect – and combat – foodborne illness more rapidly than ever before. For example, with additional resources from the National Food Safety Initiative, the CDC and the Department of Agriculture are identifying more cases of illness due to meat contaminated with deadly *E. coli* O157:H7 and removing contaminated product from the market before more cases can occur. CDC and the Food and Drug Administration rapidly investigated an outbreak of *Salmonella* infections transmitted by popular children's cereal, thus preventing additional cases.

Of course, this progress, while substantial, is only the beginning, and foodborne disease illnesses and outbreaks continue to occur at a pace that is of serious concern. Already, one outbreak affected persons in 23 states and another outbreak affected an estimated 6500 persons. As the attached table demonstrates, almost every state has investigated a foodborne outbreak. Those states where relatively few outbreaks have been investigated are usually those with fewer resources for such investigations. Similarly, the number of outbreaks for which the pathogen is unknown attests to the need for further improvements in tools for investigations. The sources of the outbreaks range from neighborhood picnics to restaurants to major food manufacturers.

Investigation of outbreaks gives us important insights into how foodborne illnesses occur, can be tracked, and can be contained – and how the National Food Safety Initiative can

target the problem. For example, the new PulseNet system created by CDC is improving identification of these outbreaks, so state and Federal disease detectives are taking action faster than ever before. These life-saving advances to investigative capabilities now need to be repeated for other pathogens. The new state-of-the-art HACCP-based inspection system will reduce many of the problems in manufacturing facilities by helping food producers prevent contamination from occurring. And education of food processors, retailers, and consumers is helping them to adopt the latest methods of preventing food contamination.

However, outbreaks represent only the tip of the iceberg of foodborne illnesses. For every outbreak that is recognized and investigated, hundreds more persons develop foodborne illness that is not linked to an outbreak. While we continue to believe that the American food supply is the safest in the world, this listing of current outbreaks demonstrates that we as a nation have a tremendous opportunity to make the food supply safer. Indeed, if we can secure the necessary funding to implement the initiative, the partnerships that have been developed among the state and local governments, the Federal agencies responsible for food safety, and the food industry can save thousands of lives each year and eliminate billions of dollars in wasted costs to society. We believe that the National Food Safety Initiative will make an extremely important contribution in reducing death and illness caused by food pathogens in this country.



Michael A. Friedman
Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs

Catherine E. Woteki
Under Secretary for Food Safety

Confirmed and Suspected U.S. Foodborne Disease Outbreaks January-July 1998, Reported as of July 10

MICROBIAL AGENT	MONTH	STATE (S)	NO. ILL	HOSP	SETTING	VEHICLE
<i>Campylobacter</i>	February	FL	-	-	Club	Unknown
Ciguatera	January	HI	1	0	Home	Fish (Grouper)
Ciguatera	March	HI	2	0	Home	Fish (Mullet)
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	January	WI	34	0	Caterer	Sliced beef
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O6:H16	June	IL	6500	-	Caterer	Salads
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:NM	July	CA	5	-	Community	Unknown
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7	February	WA	2	1	Farm	Unknown
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	April	WA	3	-	Community	Unknown
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	April	TX	4	-	Community	Unknown
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	April	TX	2	-	Community	Unknown
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	April / May	NY	11	3	Community	Unknown
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	May	AZ	3	2	Picnic	Ground beef
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	May	CA	2	0	Restaurant	Salad
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	May	VA	6	2	Community	Unknown
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	May / June	CT	10	1	Community	Unknown
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	May / June	MA	7	0	Community	Ground beef
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	May / June	MA	9	0	Community	Unknown
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	May / June	ME	5	0	Community	Ground beef
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	May / June	NH	7	1	Community	Ground beef
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	May / June	NY	7	0	Community	Unknown
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	May / June	IN	33	5	Restaurant	Cole slaw
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	June	GA	2	2	Community	Unknown

MICROBIAL AGENT	MONTH	STATE (S)	NO. ILL	HOSP	SETTING	VEHICLE
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	June	VA	4	0	Community	Ground beef
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	June	WI	40	16	Community	Cheese curds
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	June	WI	40	-	Caterer	Fruit salad
Norwalk (Calicivirus)	March	WI	65	1	Nursing home	Unknown
Norwalk (Calicivirus)	April	WI	22	1	Restaurant	Unknown
Norwalk (Calicivirus)	April	VA	-	-	Dinner theatre	Unknown
<i>Salmonella</i> Agona	May / June	AR, CT, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MD, MI, MO, NE, NJ, NY, OK, OH, PA, TN, WA, WV, WI	409	74	Community	Cereal
<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis	January	MD	8	0	Restaurant	Tiramisu
<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis	January	CA	4	3	Restaurant	Turkey stuffing
<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis	January	CA	26	3	Home	Lasagna
<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis	January	PA	4	2	Restaurant	Unknown
<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis	February	CT	12	1	Restaurant	Eggs
<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis	March	VA	20	5	Restaurant	Cream pies
<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis	March	IL/WI	2	0	Restaurant	Hollandaise sauce
<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis	March	UT	7	1	Home	Unknown
<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis	April	UT	5	0	Restaurant	Fried rice
<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis	May	UT	4	0	Restaurant	Caesar salad
<i>Salmonella</i> Havana	July	CA	11	-	Community	Unknown
<i>Salmonella</i> Heidelberg		PA	40	-	Church	Turkey / stuffing
<i>Salmonella</i> Heidelberg	April	IL	30	-	School	Unknown
<i>Salmonella</i> Montevideo	March	OH	5	-	Diner	Eggs
<i>Salmonella</i> Oranienburg	May / June	WA	8	-	Community	Unknown

MICROBIAL AGENT	MONTH	STATE (S)	NO. ILL	HOSP	SETTING	VEHICLE
<i>Salmonella</i> Searlesberg	July	CA	15	-	Community	Sprouts
<i>Salmonella</i> Typhimurium	June	MI	11	-	Community	Unknown
Scombroid	January	HI	2	0	Restaurant	Fish (Ahi)
Scombroid	January	HI	2	0	Home	Fish (Mahi-Mahi)
Scombroid	March	CA	6	0	Restaurant	Fish (Ahi)
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	January	IN	25	3	Restaurant	Unknown
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	January	CA	25	3	Restaurant	Unknown
<i>Shigella sonnei</i>	April	LA	70	-	School	Unknown
Small Round Structured Virus	March	TX	125	-	College	Deli Bar
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	February	IN	101	0	Prison	Macaroni salad
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	March	OR	5	1	Restaurant	Breading mix
Unknown	January	FL	3	-	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	January	CA	35	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	January	CA	9	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	February	IN	9	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	February	FL	3	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	February	FL	3	2	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	February	FL	4	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	February	OH	2	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	February	OR	15	0	Restaurant	Pasta Salad
Unknown	February	OR	38	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	February	OH	2	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	February	OR	15	0	Restaurant	Pasta salad



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Date: July 14, 1998

To : Tom Freedman

From: Bill Hubbard

FAX #: 202-456-~~7431~~ 7028

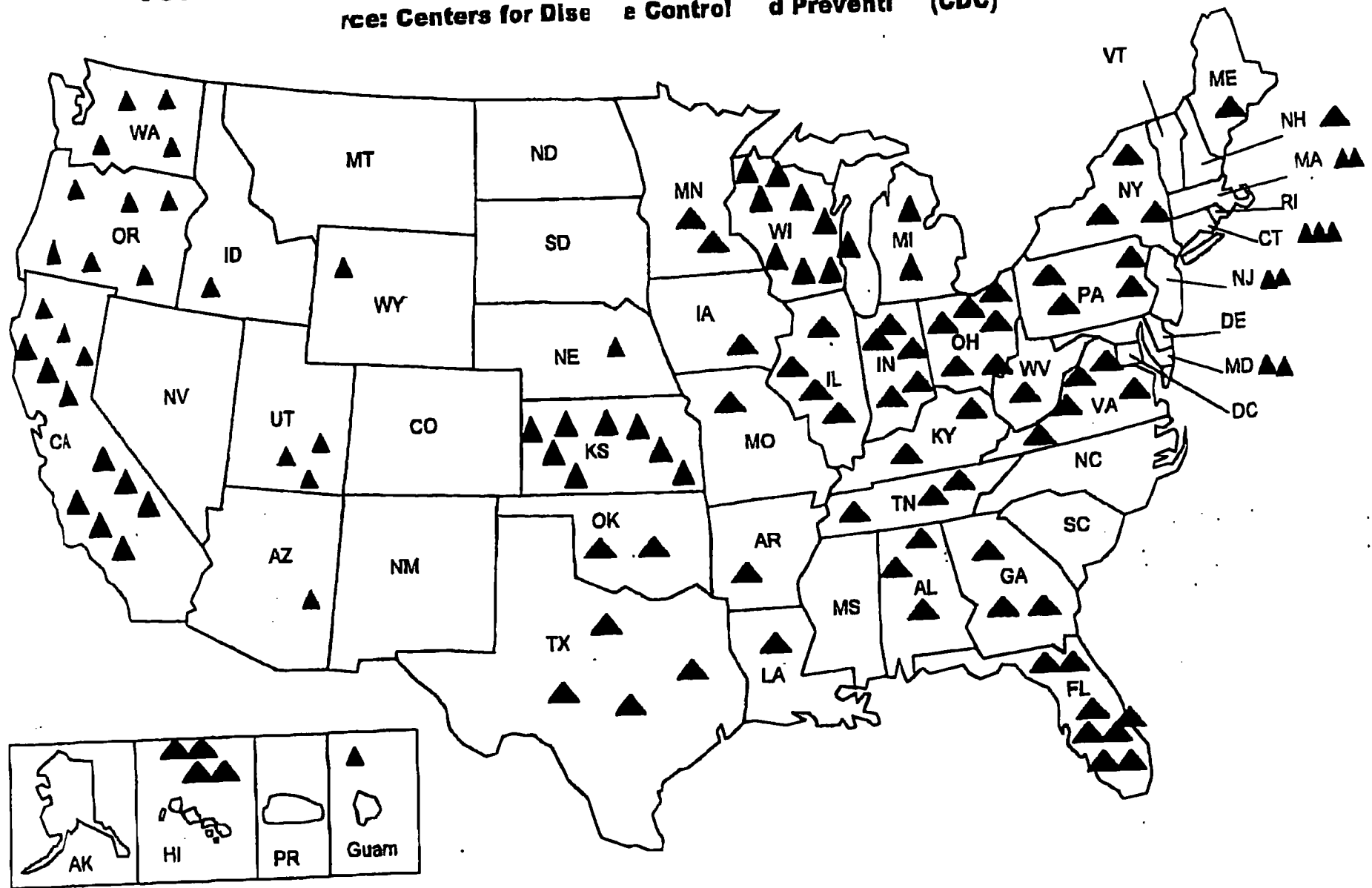
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Foodborne Disease Outbreaks in the United States (January-July 1998)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



MICROBIAL AGENT	MONTH	STATE (S)	NO. ILL	HOSP	SETTING	VEHICLE
Unknown	February	OR	38	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	February	FL	16	-	School	Burritos
Unknown	March	GA	45	-	School	Burritos
Unknown	March	AL	2	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	March	AL	3	2	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	March	FL	50	0	Caterer	Cornbread stuffing
Unknown	April	OH	104	-	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	April	KS	30	0	Caterer	Unknown
Unknown	April	OR	16	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	April	KS	30	0	Caterer	Unknown
Unknown	April	WI	13	0	Food store	Unknown
Unknown	April	OR	16	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	April	WI	13	0	Food store	Unknown
Unknown	May	KS	5	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	May	KS	4	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	May	KS	5	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	May	KS	4	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	June	KS	24	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	June	KS	24	0	Restaurant	Unknown
Unknown	June	PA	-	-	Caterer	Salad
<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>	January	GUAM	47	0	Restaurant	Chicken
<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>	June	TX,FL,OK,TN,GA,CA	322	-	Community	Oysters
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	February	VA	8	-	Community	Unknown



July 13, 1998
(Senate Floor)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

(THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN COORDINATED BY OMB WITH THE CONCERNED AGENCIES.)

S. 2159 – AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 1999

(Sponsors: Stevens (R), Alaska; Cochran (R), Mississippi)

This Statement of Administration Policy provides the Administration's views on S. 2159, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 1999, as reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Your consideration of the Administration's views would be appreciated.

The Administration appreciates efforts by the Committee to accommodate the President's priorities within the 302(b) allocation. However, the allocation is simply insufficient to make the necessary investments in programs funded by this bill, as discussed below. The only way to achieve the appropriate investment level is to offset discretionary spending by using savings in other areas. The President's FY 1999 Budget proposes levels of discretionary spending for FY 1999 that conform to the Bipartisan Budget Agreement by providing savings through user fees and certain mandatory programs to help finance discretionary spending. In the recently enacted Transportation Equity Act, Congress – on a broad, bipartisan basis – took similar action in approving funding for surface transportation programs paid for with mandatory offsets. We want to work with the Congress on mutually-agreeable mandatory and other offsets that could be used to increase high-priority discretionary programs, including those funded by this bill. In addition, we urge the Congress to adopt the user fee proposals included in the President's budget, which would enable additional resources to be directed to important initiatives such as those proposed for food safety, nutrition programs, rural development, and conservation.

Below is a discussion of our specific concerns with the Committee-reported bill. We look forward to working with you to resolve these concerns as the bill moves forward.

Civil Rights

The Administration is working to include in the bill a provision that waives the statute of limitations for individuals who have previously filed a discrimination claim against USDA. The President is personally committed to righting any wrongs committed by USDA employees in years past, and a great many individuals who were discriminated against will have no recourse unless the statute of limitations is waived for them. We will continue to work to identify appropriate offsets for the cost of this waiver.

JUL-13-98 18:20 FROM: ID: PAGE 07

In a number of areas, the Committee has reduced funds to assist the most needy farmers and members of the rural community. The Committee does not provide the requested increase for the Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers program, which was a key recommendation of the Civil Rights Action Team (CRAT) report last year. With the additional \$7 million requested, USDA could support 35 projects to assist 10,000 small family farms and stem the continuing reduction in the number of minority farmers and ranchers.

Another recommendation in the CRAT report is to increase the amount of farm ownership loans, a portion of which are targeted to minority and beginning farmers. The Administration urges the Senate to provide the additional \$3 million requested for this program by the President, which would permit another 290 limited-resource farmers to finance real estate purchases. This increase could be offset by approving the request to eliminate the Forestry Incentives Program, which promotes timber production on private lands.

Food Safety Initiative

The Administration is deeply concerned that the Committee has not fully funded the President's request for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and USDA activities to enhance food safety, providing only \$2.6 million out of the \$101 million the President has requested for these activities, \$96 million of which is requested in this bill. American consumers enjoy the world's safest food supply, but too many Americans get sick, and in some cases die, from preventable food-borne diseases. The President's budget increase would expand food safety research, risk assessment capabilities, education, surveillance activities, and food import inspections. We want to work with the Congress to explore options that can be used to offset the cost of the needed increases in these programs as well as provide funds to modernize further the meat and poultry inspection system.

Women, Infants, and Children

The Committee bill would freeze funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) at the FY 1998 level of \$3.9 billion, \$157 million below the President's request. This would only support a participation level of between 7.3 and 7.4 million women, infants, and children, and, based on FY 1998 year-end projections, would mean cutting off over 100,000 needy participants from the program. The President's request would maintain participation at 7.5 million, fulfilling the bipartisan commitment to fully fund WIC. The Administration strongly encourages the Senate to fund WIC at the President's requested level.

On language issues regarding administration of the WIC program, the Administration prefers the language included in the President's budget, in order to maintain the viability of infant formula rebates and so that funds are used to satisfy the highest priority WIC needs first. The Administration also supports transferring the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program to the Commodity Assistance Program, in order to prevent the diversion of already limited WIC resources from supporting program participation.

Arms Export Control Act Modification

The Administration supports section 738, which will ensure that American farmers can continue to export wheat and other commodities to India and Pakistan through USDA export assistance programs. As the President recently announced, in the sanctions the U.S. is applying toward those countries, we are attempting within the constraints of the Act to minimize the humanitarian impact on their people and adverse effects on American agriculture. Cutting off the supply of U.S. wheat would only hurt the citizens of Pakistan and India, as well as American farmers, without furthering the goal of nuclear nonproliferation.

Rural Development Funding

The Administration strongly objects to the Committee's blocking the mandatory Fund for Rural America from being used in FY 1999. The Fund provides additional resources for rural development and innovative agricultural research that are vitally needed to improve the quality of life in rural America and increase the productivity of U.S. farmers. The intent of Congress in creating the Fund in 1996 was to boost the overall Federal investment in these activities, not to offset discretionary spending in them. Furthermore, Congress recently extended the authority for the Fund while increasing its resources. We urge the Senate to strike this provision.

In addition, the Committee has not fully funded the President's request for the Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP), underfunding direct loans for water and wastewater and for community facilities. These loans provide the community infrastructure needed to improve the quality of life of rural Americans, and often finance the vital ingredient for diversifying the rural economy. The Committee bill would result in an estimated 35 fewer water and wastewater facilities serving 50,000 rural residents, and 75 fewer rural health clinics, police and fire stations, and child care facilities being built. Furthermore, for the RCAP program to be adaptable to unique local economic development needs, as envisioned in its 1996 Farm Bill authorization, the Senate should strike the Committee's limitation on the flexibility to transfer funds among programs and allow the program to be implemented as authorized.

Food and Drug Administration

The Administration strongly urges the Congress to provide the full \$1,251 million in resources to fund the program level proposed for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the President's budget. The Administration is deeply disappointed and concerned that the Committee has not funded the President's request for FDA's tobacco enforcement activities. This funding is vital to the Administration's plan to reduce youth smoking. Congress' failure thus far to pass comprehensive tobacco legislation should not prevent the Committee from providing adequate resources for these critical public health activities. We will work with the Congress to develop the appropriate means of funding.

Agricultural Research

The Committee bill includes over \$50 million in unrequested earmarks for lower-priority research while funding competitive grants through the National Research Initiative (NRI) at \$33 million below the President's request. The rejection of additional funds for competitive research grants for national and regional priorities, in favor of earmarked grants for more local or industry-specific requests, will slow progress toward addressing the most pressing needs of American agriculture and food consumers, and we urge the Senate to reverse this course of action. It can do so not only by reducing earmarked grants in the bill, but by reducing the \$9 million in unrequested increases for the Agricultural Research Service's buildings and facilities program. A task force created by the 1996 Farm Bill to review the Nation's agricultural research facilities comprehensively is due to report to Congress next year, and further construction should be minimized until the Administration and Congress have had the opportunity to review the report.

Climate Change and Clean Water Initiatives, and Conservation Programs

The Committee has not provided any of the \$7 million increase requested for additional research as part of the Administration's Climate Change Technology Initiative. These funds would support high-priority research to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases caused by agricultural practices, develop improved feedstocks that can be used to generate energy, and improve techniques to convert agricultural products to biofuels. The Administration urges the Senate to provide the necessary funding.

The Committee also has not included the Administration's requested increase of \$23 million for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement the President's Clean Water Action Plan to help State and local organizations hire watershed coordinators, document baseline conditions, and target resources to farmers requesting assistance. The Plan, developed by USDA and EPA, outlines a strategy on how to address water quality problems, including polluted runoff, in watershed areas across the Nation. The Administration urges the Senate to provide these necessary funds to the NRCS.

In addition, the Administration is concerned with reductions in the Committee bill to USDA mandatory conservation programs. The bill eliminates funds to carry out a Conservation Farm Option program, and reduces signups under the Wetlands Reserve Program by 25,000 acres, to 140,000 acres. These programs provide technical and financial assistance to farmers to enable them to manage their land efficiently while providing environmentally-beneficial improvements to wetlands, wildlife habitat, soil erosion, and water quality. Taken together, the reductions in the bill to conservation and environmental programs are objectionable, and we want to work with the Senate to restore funding in this area.

Other Issues

- Additional funds are needed for the farm labor housing program to improve the living conditions many farm labor families endure. The Committee's level of \$16 million in direct loans is more than 50 percent below the Administration's request and, when coupled with the bill's \$3 million reduction below the request for farm labor grants, would mean that over 350 fewer housing units would be built compared with the request. We urge the Senate to increase funding to assist these needy members of our society. This could be achieved by shifting \$11.5 million from the amount in the bill that is in excess of the President's request for multi-family housing direct loans.
- The Committee bill includes a \$20 million reduction to the President's request for the mandatory Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which purchases commodities for individuals greatly in need of assistance. Given reported increases in need for food assistance through food banks and soup kitchens, the Administration is concerned that this reduction from the authorized level would mean less food will reach the most vulnerable Americans.
- The Administration objects to section 721 of the Committee bill, which would limit Executive Branch review of USDA responses to congressional inquiries. Congress expects the Administration to be responsible for agency activities. This provision erodes that responsibility and is contrary to the widespread congressional view that more, not less, accountability is needed for improved management results. The Administration urges the Senate to delete the provision.
- The Administration objects to section 735 of the Committee bill, which would prohibit the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from consolidating laboratory operations. The proposed consolidation offers the opportunity for better efficiency and mission coordination, and it is part of FDA's overall streamlining goals. This provision would force FDA to spend funds on infrastructure that could otherwise be used more directly to protect public health. The Administration urges the Senate to delete this provision.
- The Committee has provided none of the requested \$22 million increase for the Inspector General as part of the Administration's law enforcement initiative. This USDA initiative would save taxpayers millions of dollars lost through fraud in the food and nutrition programs, in USDA disaster, multi-family housing, and other programs, as well as improve the integrity of USDA programs. The Administration urges the Senate to increase funds for this important initiative.
- The Committee bill provides funding for research on nutrition programs within the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The Administration is very pleased that funding for these activities is returned to the FNS, where research on nutrition programs will occur in the context of the program's administration.

*Food
Safe
Amendment*

FAX COVER SHEET

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COMMENTS:

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Dallas - Here is my third try at it. Analysis and tax argument is at the end. Also, I fixed the statue part to cover all costs.

1. Amendment of the No Net Cost Fund assessments to provide for collection of all administrative costs not previously covered and all crop insurance costs for tobacco. Section 106A of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1445-1(c), is hereby amended by, in (d)(7) changing "the Secretary" to "the Secretary; and" and by adding a new clause, (d)(8) read as follows:

"(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection or other law, that with respect to the 1999 and subsequent crops of tobacco for which price support is made available and for which a Fund is maintained under this section, an additional assessment shall be remitted over and above that otherwise provided for in this subsection. Such additional assessment shall be equal to: (1) the administrative costs within the Department of Agriculture that not otherwise covered under another assessment under this section or under another provision of law; and (2) any and all net losses in federal crop insurance programs for tobacco, whether those losses be on price-supported tobacco or on other tobaccos. The Secretary shall estimate those administrative and insurance costs in advance. The Secretary may make such adjustments in the assessment under this clause for future crops as are needed to cover shortfalls or over-collections. The assessment shall be applied so that the additional amount to be collected under this clause shall be the same for all price support tobaccos (and imported tobacco of like kind) which are marketed or imported into the United States during the marketing year for the crops covered by this clause. For each domestically produced pound of tobacco the assessment amount to be remitted under this clause shall be paid by the purchaser of the tobacco. On imported tobacco, the assessment shall be paid by the importer. Monies collected pursuant to this section shall be commingled with other monies in the No Net Cost Fund maintained under this section. The administrative and crop insurance costs that are taken into account in fixing the amount of the assessment shall be a claim on the Fund and shall be

transferred to the appropriate account for the payment of administrative costs and insurance costs at a time determined appropriate by the Secretary. Collections under this clause shall not effect the amount of any other collection established under this section or under another provision of law but shall be enforceable in the same manner as other assessments under this section and shall be subject to the same sanctions for nonpayment."

2. Amendment of the No Net Cost Account assessments to provide for collection of all administrative cost not previously covered and all crop insurance costs. Section 106B of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended,, 7 U.S.C. 1445-2, is amended by renumbering subsections "(i)" and "(j)" as "(j)" and "(k)" respectively, and by adding a new subsection "(i)" to read as follows:

"(i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or other law, the Secretary shall require with respect to the 1999 and subsequent crops of tobacco for which price support is made available and for which an Account is maintained under this section, that an additional assessment shall be remitted over and above that otherwise provided for in this subsection. Such additional assessment shall be equal to: (1) the administrative costs within the Department of Agriculture that are not otherwise covered under another assessment under this section or under another provision of law; and (2) any and all net losses in federal crop insurance programs for tobacco, whether those losses be on price-supported tobacco or on other tobaccos. The Secretary shall estimate those administrative and insurance costs in advance. The Secretary may make such adjustments in the assessments under this clause for future crops as are needed to cover shortfalls or over-collections. The assessment shall be applied so that the additional amount to be collected under this clause shall be the same for all price support tobaccos (and imported tobacco of like kind) which are marketed or imported into the United States during the marketing year for the crops covered by this clause. For each domestically produced pound of tobacco the assessment amount to be remitted under

this clause shall be paid by the purchaser of the tobacco. On imported tobacco, the assessment shall be paid by the importer. Monies collected pursuant to this section shall be commingled with other monies in the No Net Cost Account maintained under this section. The administrative and crop insurance costs that are taken into account in fixing the amount of the assessment shall be a claim on the Account and shall be transferred to the appropriate account for the payment of administrative costs and insurance costs at a time determined appropriate by the Secretary. Collections under this clause shall not effect the amount of any other collection established under this section or under another provision of law but shall be enforceable in the same manner as other assessments under this section and shall be subject to the same sanctions for nonpayment."

Analysis

These amendments are very limited, very specific and are regulatory in nature in that these amendments would modify the existing authority for the "no net cost" assessments for tobacco to insure that all tobacco costs incurred by the Department of Agriculture are covered and would increase the net cost of tobacco purchases. Currently only price support costs are covered by the "no net cost" assessments but not administrative costs that are normally associated with such programs such as the salaries of USDA personnel. Also not currently covered are costs not directly associated with the price support program such as those associated with crop insurance. These amendments would cover all such administrative costs within the Department of Agriculture, to the extent that they are not covered all already by the no net cost assessment or other fees or assessments, and would also cover the net losses for the crop insurance program. These provisions do not constitute a tax. They do not generate a certain revenue stream. Rather, their amount is governed by the costs incurred and are paid by participants in the industry only to insure that in fact the program is neutral as to American taxpayers. That is, these amendments would simply shift the cost of the program away from taxpayers. In that sense, these amendment are the opposite of a tax as they serve to assure that in fact the "tobacco program" (taking that term in the broadest sense) will be operated at no net cost to U.S. taxpayers.

Settled case law is in accord with the view that such amendments do not constitute a tax for procedural or other purposes. See State of S.C. ex rel. Tindal v. Block, 717 F.2d 874, 887 (4th Cir. 1983) (holding that milk assessments were not a tax). The Court said there:

The deduction, however, is not a tax. The mere fact a statute raises revenue does not imprint upon it the characteristics of a law by which the taxing power is exercised. Head Money Cases, 112 U.S. 580, 28 L. Ed. 798, 5 S. Ct. 247 (1884). The imposition of assessments have long been held to be a legitimate means of regulating commerce. See, e.g., Wickard v. Filburn, 317 U.S. 111, 87 L. Ed. 122, 63 S. Ct. 82 (1942). If regulation is the primary purpose of a statute, revenue raised under the statute will be considered a fee rather than a tax. United States v. Stanaland, 242 F.2d

843, 848 (7th Cir. 1957); Rodgers v. United States, 138 F.2d 992, 994 (6th Cir. 1943).

The clear language and structure of the 1982 amendment indicates that its primary purpose is regulation. The statute's regulatory purpose is to reduce overproduction of milk and shift some of the financial burden of the price support program. Accordingly, the dairy amendment bears the indelible imprimatur of the commerce power and is not an unconstitutional exercise of the taxing power.

These amendments likewise are regulatory in that they shift the burden of the tobacco program and will also increase, to some degree, the price for tobacco. Even importers, moreover, benefit from a ready supply of tobacco in the United States, given normal blending considerations and moreover, it is necessary that all tobacco be impacted to assure that there is a level playing field for all tobacco marketings consistent with our WTO obligations.